

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: March 28, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:43 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Vernon Brown
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman
Cherrish Pryor

Absent Members

Scott Schneider

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 112, 2007 - approves a transfer of \$47,600 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Justice Agency (Law Enforcement Fund) to fund a contract with IUPUI to extract and analyze data for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) "Strike" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 159, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$32,500 for the Marion County Community Corrections Agency (Home Detention User Fee Fund) to hire a maintenance supervisor for the community corrections facility at 147 East Market Street "Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 160, 2007 - appropriates \$85,566 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Forensic Services Agency (State and Federal Grants Fund) to make improvements within the Marion County Crime Lab by upgrading computer software and adding equipment to the drug chemistry lab, financed by a U.S. Department of Justice grant administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute "Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. Chair Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, Lincoln Plowman, and Cherrish Pryor. Absent was Scott Schneider.

PROPOSAL NO. 112, 2007 - approves a transfer of \$47,600 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Justice Agency (Law Enforcement Fund) to fund a contract with IUPUI to extract and analyze data for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Chair Moriarty Adams said she received a request from Diana Burleson, Director of the Marion County Justice Agency (MCJA), to withdraw Proposal No. 112, 2007.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver to “Strike” Proposal No. 112, 2007. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 159, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$32,500 for the Marion County Community Corrections Agency (Home Detention User Fee Fund) to hire a maintenance supervisor for the community corrections facility at 147 East Market Street

Brian Barton, Executive Director for Community Corrections, said a technical correction needs to be made to change the address of the proposed facility. The correct address is 147 E. Maryland Street. He said this proposal will take user fee money from their Home Detention Fund to hire an additional maintenance coordinator for the Community Corrections facility. Mr. Barton said this facility is in much need of repair and renovation. There are currently two maintenance supervisors that spend a lot of time repairing and replacing items at the facility. He said this proposed position will allow attention to be directed to the actual inmate workers and the development of inmate work crews to help clean up their own living areas. Mr. Barton said this proposal will also allow inmate workers to receive credit time for their participation. The \$32,500 in the proposal is for the salary of the position.

Councillor Brown asked if the hiring process goes through Human Resources before an employee is hired at Community Corrections. Mr. Barton replied in the affirmative. Councillor Brown asked if this is a position that an ex-offender could obtain. Mr. Barton said an ex-offender could obtain this position, depending on what they did in the past. Councillor Brown asked how many employees are with Community Corrections. Mr. Barton said they currently have 71 employees, and that amount will increase with the opening of the new work release center. Councillor Brown asked what the minority percentage is for employees. Mr. Barton said he does not have the breakdown, but will provide that information to the Council.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the position requires maintenance skills. Mr. Barton said the position is more janitorial and is an attempt to organize work crews. He said offenders will be screened to ensure they are appropriate for these work crews.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Pryor, to send Proposal No. 159, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 160, 2007 - appropriates \$85,566 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Forensic Services Agency (State and Federal Grants Fund) to make improvements within the Marion County Crime Lab by upgrading computer software and adding equipment to the drug chemistry lab, financed by a U.S. Department of Justice grant administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Larry Schultz, Chief Financial Officer for the Crime Lab, said this grant is federally funded and was received in January 2007. The funds will be used for four basic items: 1) \$42,000 will purchase equipment for drug chemistry discipline, 2) software that will assist detectives in their request to the Forensic Agency, 3) contract for someone to come in and do assessments for IOS (International Organization of Standards) standards, 4) \$36,000 in a maintenance agreement for the software system that manages case work, tracks evidence, produces reports, and makes them available to detectives and prosecutors.

Councillor Pryor asked how long the grant is and if it will be available for additional years. Mr. Schultz said they can apply for the grant every year as long as it is available.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if the grant is for one year. Mr. Schultz replied in the affirmative and said the grant terminates on September 30, 2007. Mike Medler, Director of the Forensic Services Agency, said that the Coverdale grant has been renewed; however, there is always the possibility that the grant will not be available. He said this grant can only be used by credited forensic laboratories, and there are five credited laboratories in the State, including Indianapolis, all competing for the same grant.

Councillor Plowman asked about the backlog with DNA. Mr. Medler said they have no backlog, other than eight cases that are pending. He said the reduction in backlog is in part due to the State law changing, and there are more offenders in the database, which assists in cold cases.

Robert Yahara, citizen, said federal funding is important in order to have the proper means of evaluation in place. He said most programs have not been evaluated and there is not enough scientific evidence to draw conclusions. Mr. Yahara said if the City wants funding, they

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

March 28, 2007

Page 3

are going to need data; therefore, the city needs to work more with universities to provide scientific means and methods to ensure funding for programs and software.

Councillor Pryor moved, seconded by Councillor Franklin, to send Proposal No. 160, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councillor Brown informed the committee that he has asked the Office of Finance and Management to look for additional grant money for the Our Kids (OK) program.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee